

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 774

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Doris “Cousin Tuny” Freeman on the celebration of her eighty-seventh birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, a native Jacksonian, Doris “Cousin Tuny” Freeman will celebrate her eighty-seventh birthday on March 25, 2012, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Ms. Freeman is renowned for her activities as an entertainer, her many contributions to broadcasting, in addition to her tireless efforts in support of several worthy causes; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, she has demonstrated a remarkable ability to engage and entertain others, winning the unbridled admiration of audiences, colleagues, and fellow community members alike; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Freeman began her career as a precocious seven year old, singing and dancing for radio; she later created and starred in the daily children’s show, “Cousin Tuny,” for twelve wonderful years; and

WHEREAS, she has also performed marvelously as a freelance promoter, an advertiser, and a marketer through Cousin Tuny Enterprises, as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Jackson Madison County General Hospital, and as the Manager and Marketing Director of Old Hickory Mall, thereby reflecting her philosophy that “You can’t help someone else uphill without getting closer to the top yourself”; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Freeman has also used her talents to broadcast, emcee, or co-host many well-known events, including the preliminary Miss Tennessee Pageant and the Miss

Tennessee and Miss America Pageants; she has also served in more than seventy telethons, raising money for such laudable causes as Cerebral Palsy; and

WHEREAS, a pillar of her community, she has also meritoriously served as a member of the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the West Tennessee Cerebral Palsy Association Board of Directors, and the Tennessee Governor's Committee for Employment of the Disabled; and

WHEREAS, as a tribute to her years of service to children, the West Tennessee Healthcare Foundation established the Doris "Cousin Tuny" Freeman Endowment for Special Needs Children; and

WHEREAS, despite her many honors, including being a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, an Outstanding Tennessean, Woman of the Year, the recipient of the Golden Mic Award for Outstanding Contributions to Broadcasting, Colonel Aide-de Camp under Governor Ned McWherter, and one of President George Bush, Sr.'s "Thousand Points of Light," she remains an ever gracious and most humble Christian servant who feels privileged to give and do for others, thereby reflecting the love of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, her many accomplishments aside, Doris "Cousin Tuny" Freeman has been blessed with the love and companionship of her four children, four beloved grandchildren, and one precious great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, steadfast and devoted to her faith, Ms. Freeman is an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church of Jackson, where she has served dutifully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Freeman exemplifies the spirit of allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; her dedication to her church, her family, her community, and to the good people of the State of Tennessee is indeed unparalleled; and

WHEREAS, as Ms. Freeman approaches her ninth decade, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING that we hereby honor Doris "Cousin Tuny" Freeman, family woman, entertainer, and humble servant, for her well demonstrated integrity, compassion, and generosity in a life of service to the children and people of our great Nation, congratulate her on the celebration of her eighty-seventh birthday, and extend to her our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.